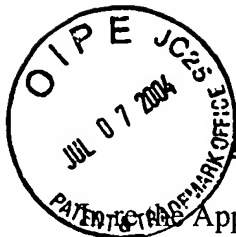


IFW



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of:

Atty. Dkt. No.: 001309.00053

Nobuaki TSUJINO

Serial No.: 10/724,619

Filed: December 2, 2003

For: FILE AND BINDING MEMBER

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with Applicants' duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(a), the following information is submitted for consideration by the United States Patent and Trademark Office in connection with the above-captioned application. The information is identified on the attached PTO-1449 form.

Copies of the cited references are enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner.

Each item of information contained herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of said Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement.

These documents were cited by the European Patent Office for corresponding European Application No. 04 001 188.4. A copy of the search report is also enclosed.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider these references in connection with the search of the prior art required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.104.

It is also respectfully requested that the Examiner initial the enclosed Form PTO-1449 in the appropriate place to indicate that the document has been considered, and return a copy of the initialed form to the undersigned in accordance with MPEP Section 609.

Applicants do not waive any right to take appropriate action to establish patentability over the listed documents should they be applied as references against the claims of the present application.

It is believed that no fee is required to ensure consideration of the cited references by the Examiner. However, if a fee is deemed necessary, the Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 19-0733.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Wolffe", with a stylized, cursive script.

Susan A. Wolffe
Reg. No. 33,568

Date: 7/7/04

Banner & Witcoff, Ltd.
1001 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20001-4597
(202) 824-3000

SAW:cd



Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → ,

PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Complete if Known

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Application Number | 10/724,619 |
| Filing Date | December 2, 2003 |
| First Named Inventor | Nobuaki TSUJINO |
| Group Art Unit | Unknown |
| Examiner Name | Unknown |
| Attorney Docket Number | 001309.00053 |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials * | Cite No. ¹ | U.S. Patent Document | | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| | | Number | Kind Code ² (if known) | | | |
| | AA | 1,507,547 | | Grunewald | 09-02-1924 | |
| | AB | 3,275,005 | | Cott | 09-27-1966 | |
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials * | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | | | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | T ₆ |
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| | | Office ³ | Number ⁴ | Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | | |
| | AC | WO | 01-43980 | | Hirsch | 06-21-2001 | | Y |
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OTHER PRIOR ART -- NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials * | Cite No. ¹ | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. | T ² |
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Examiner
Signature

Date
Considered

¹EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.